

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-09 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /123 W

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3499

INFO COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK

CINCLANT

JCS

ISA

USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL REYKJAVIK 0329

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE

1. FOLLOWING SHORT ITEM APPEARED MARCH 24 ISSUE OF ICELAND'S
LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER MORGUNBLADID:

BEGIN QUOTE

A REPORT FROM NATO

FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON SAID RECENTLY IN A SPEECH AT A
MEETING OF THE PROGRESSIVE CHAPTER IN REYKJAVIK THAT HE HAD
ASKED THE NATO SECRETARIAT FOR A REPORT ON WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF
THE IDF LEFT ICELAND. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PAPER YESTERDAY,
AGUSTSSON SAID HE HAS RECEIVED THIS REPORT AND SHOWN IT TO THE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, BUT THE REPORT IS CONSIDERED
CONFIDENTIAL AND HE WOULD, THEREFORE, NOT REVEAL THE CONCLUS-
SIONS OF THE REPORT, WHEN ASKED AGUSTSSON SAID THAT THIS ACTION
DID NOT MEAN AT ALL THAT AN 18 MONTHS NOTICE OF THE DEFENSE
AGREEMENT WITH THE US WAS IMPLEMENTED. END QUOTE

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2. COMMENT: GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRO-US INDEPENDENCE PARTY AND AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, TOLD AMB TODAY THAT THE NATO REPORT REFERRED TO WAS OVER A YEAR OLD (UNDOUBTEDLY NATO'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 3, 1971). HE ALSO SAID REPORT HAD DISAPPOINTING IMPACT ON COMMITTEE SINCE REPORT SKIRTED BASIC QUESTION AS TO WHETHER IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE MILITARY PERSONNEL MAN THE SURVEILLANCE FUNCTIONS OF THE IDF. HALLGRIMSSON SUGGESTED THAT IF NATO WERE TO BE ASKED AGAIN FOR A REPORT, NATO MIGHT WANT TO ANSWER SUCH A QUESTION WITH THE OVERRIDING ISSUE IN MIND OF RETAINING THE US MILITARY FORCE IN ICELAND.

IRVING

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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